

Coles Rolls Arden Lead Into Trouble

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By Dave George

Staff Writer

NORTH MIAMI — Just three holes from home yesterday, Janet Coles was tooling around Turnberry Isle Country Club with her steady golf game on cruise control and her nose pointed squarely toward the second victory in a quiet six-year LPGA career.

The Leader

Janet Coles 70—211

The Followers

Nancy Lopez 70—212
Stephanie Farwig 66—213
Sandra Spuzich 71—214
Pat Bradley 69—215
Sandra Post 71—215
JoAnne Carner 73—215
Jan Stephenson 69—216
Kathy Whitworth 70—216
Beth Daniel 73—216
Donna Caponi 74—217
Hollis Stacy 73—220

Then Coles' third-round joy ride in the \$150,000 Elizabeth Arden Classic nearly turned into a demolition derby as a triple-bogey from the water behind the 16th green totaled what once was a comfortable lead.

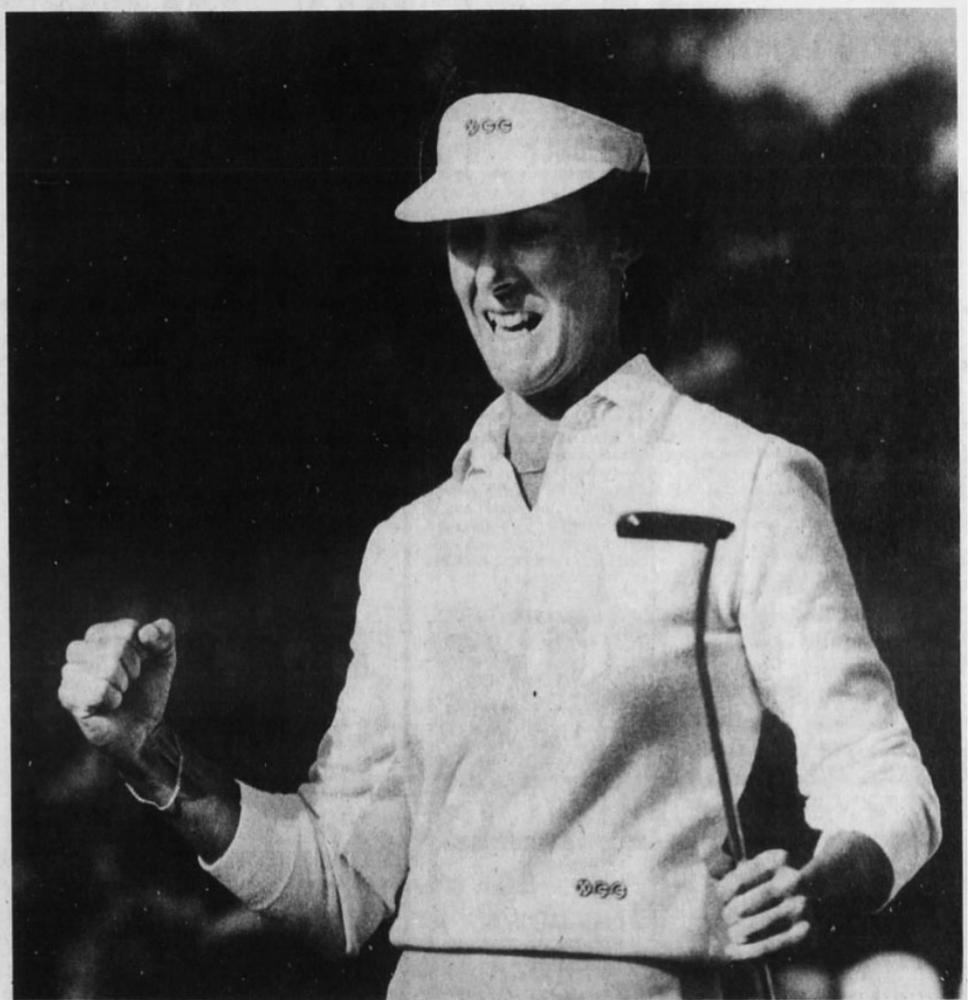
Going into today's final round, Coles owns a one-shot lead over Nancy Lopez by virtue of a curling 45-foot birdie putt on the final green. Lopez h o p s c o t c h e d through and around

the trouble spots all day, balancing six birdies against four bogeys and coming up smiling with a 70. That puts her one shot shy of Coles' 54-hole total of five-under-par 211 and one up on hard-charging rookie Stephanie Farwig, who rocketed into view from the outer limits with an out-of-this-world 66 — the best round of the tournament.

Rookie Lauri Peterson and her hard-luck playing partner Alice Ritzman, who each started the day two shots behind Coles' lead, took different routes to the nearest exit.

Peterson, the first-round leader in just her second tournament on the LPGA tour, triple-bogeyed No. 8 when she flew one out of the bunker and over the green, and never recovered. Ritzman truly skulled her approach shot to the fourth green, bouncing it off the bald noggin of a winter visitor from New Jersey, but still managed to par the hole. Still, she and Peterson both finished with three-over 75s and settled into a spot four shots off the lead in a group that includes defending champion JoAnne Carner and Pat Bradley, last week's Mazda Classic of Deer Creek winner. Boynton Beach's Sandra Spuzich is alone in third place, just three shots off the lead, after a third-round 71.

Turn to ARDEN, E7



Staff Photo by Russell Bronson

Janet Coles has grasp on lead after birdie, but lost it by punching bunker shot into water

Arden

From El _____

"That triple-bogey was the story of the day right there," said Coles, who finished with a 73 to mark the first time this week she has failed to break par on the 6,211-yard South Course. "When we walked to the 17th tee I reassessed my whole round. I told myself I was hitting the ball good and there was no reason to be alarmed. I hit one bad shot and I happened to be penalized severely for it. It's not the first time and it's not the last time that has happened to me."

Coles had better hope it was the last time this week something like that happens to her or the \$22,500 first prize will go to somebody else. Like Lopez, a trimmed-down superstar who in the last year has lost plenty of pounds and found the light of her life in Ray Knight, who works part-time as third baseman for the Houston Astros and full-time as practice supervisor and motivator for his smooth-swinging wife of four months.

"The first two days I didn't putt well but I hit the ball good; today I putted well but didn't hit the ball well," said Lopez, who closed the 1982 season with a win in the Mazda Japan Classic and is looking to keep the hot streak going. "Maybe tomorrow (in the final round) everything will fall together."

Also within a few more hot shots of overtaking Coles is Farwig, a former minitour whiz who counted among her seven birdies yesterday five putts inside 15 feet and made connections on a couple long-distance specials. Farwig wouldn't allow herself to get too carried away, preferring to savor the lowest round of her brief LPGA career the same way a college freshman would after acing an upper-level course.

A handful of players who have been at the head of the class for a long time shot themselves into contention yesterday on the second straight calm day at normally blustery Turnberry. Bradley shot 69 yesterday to join the crowd four shots off the pace. Six-year pro Betsy King also is there after a 68. At even-par 216, just one shot back, are 1982 U.S. Open champion Janet Anderson and Jan Stephenson, who each shot third-round 69s, along with Kathy Whitworth and Beth Daniel.

Coles' triple-bogey at 16 started out innocently enough with a drive that floated into the right rough on the 335-yard, par-four hole. However, a few very uncooperative trees stood between her and the green 116 yards away. Too close to go over the trees, Coles choked down on a 3-iron and punched it along the ground and into a bunker in front of the green.

"You really can't allow one shot like that putt to pump you up totally," said Coles, who hasn't won since the 1978 Lady Tara Classic. "It was really a gift, I think. When it was about halfway to the hole it looked like it was going to go in. I thought to myself, 'All right. Good. You did real well. Triple bogeys like that are going to happen. You're hitting the ball good so don't worry about it.'"

All she needs now is a worry-free round in today's final round.